

REMARKS

The examiner objected to the drawings as reference characters 139 and 239 have both been used to designate worm shaft.

The drawings are believed to be correct in that 139 is the left worm shaft and 239 is the right worm shaft. No correction is believed to be required.

The examiner objected to the drawings stating that reference characters 239 and 329 have both been used to designate universal joint.

It has not been found in the applicant's copy of the drawings that the universal joint has been labeled other than as reference number 329. After reviewing the figures the universal joint 329 appears in Figs. 6 and 7 only, and both appear to be correctly labeled. Please indicate which figure needs to be corrected.

The examiner stated that the drawings were objected to because reference character 239 has been used to designate both universal joint, ball screw and worm shaft.

The applicant has only found three instances of the reference number 239 used in the text of the specification, two instances for worm gear and one instance for ball screw. There are no instances found for a universal joint.

The applicant has corrected the specification on page 6 to change the reference numbers "139, 239" to "236".

No corrections have been made to the drawings.

The examiner objected to claims 19 and 20 due to an informality.

The claims read "to reduce for objects transported over its surface".

The claim 19 has been amended to add the word "friction", and now reads "to reduce friction for objects transported over its surface".

The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8, 10-14, 16-18 as being anticipated by the inventor's prior patent 6,050,563.

Claim 1 is an independent claim and has the features of:

“a threaded shaft portion extending into each sliding block bearing,
a ball screw inserted into the threaded shaft portion and engaging the bearing assembly for moving the sliding block bearing in the bearing housing shaft when the ball screw is rotated,

a shaft having a thread thereon for engaging and turning the worm gear and rotating the ball screw to move the sliding block bearing in the sliding block bearing shaft of the bearing assembly when the shaft is rotated,”

None of the above claimed elements are in the Vedoy '563 patent.

The applicant in his prior patent did not use a worm gear for rotating a ball screw to move the sliding block bearing. The 6,050,563 patent used thumb screws 160, 168 respectively on threaded rods 162, 170 move adjustment rods 156, 164 connected to bearing blocks 108, 124 and 116, 124 to move the bearing blocks up and down. See Vedoy '563 column 7 lines 9-53.

The applicant claims moving the bearing blocks by a ball screw in the bearing blocks which is turned by a shaft having a thread thereon for engaging a worm gear on a ball screw in the bearing block for moving the bearing block up and down.

Since the Vedoy '563 patent did not use ball screws in the bearing blocks to raise and lower the bearing blocks as is now claimed, the “563 patent does not anticipate present claim 1. Since present claim 1 is allowable and is an independent claim, all dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

The applicant believes that the specification and claims as amended are now in a condition for allowance.